

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies curriculum is designed to prepare students to be informed, responsible citizens who will critically engage the social sciences through the study of ideas and texts in the broader context of their impact upon social environments in order to accomplish the following goals:

- to develop the skills of responsible citizenship—including voting, decision-making, and community participation.
- to develop the ability to identify, compare, and contrast the defining features and inherent values of the political, social, and economic systems of the United States today and those of other periods and other peoples.
- to develop an understanding of and respect for racial, cultural, and religious groups in this society and others.
- to study the interaction of the natural world and developing civilizations.
- to develop the ability to appreciate and adapt to the ideas and feelings of others.
- to develop the ability to think critically and to express oneself logically, creatively, and persuasively.
- introduce students to the various fields of the humanities and social sciences through electives offered as found below.

### Required Social Studies Courses:

Understanding the Foundations of Western Civilization	Grade 9	1.0 Credit
American Studies - History	Grade 10	1.0 Credit
Twentieth Century Global Studies	Grade 11	1.0 Credit
U.S. Government and Political Philosophy	Grade 12	1.0 Credit
OR		
College Social Science Seminar	Grade 12	1.0 Credit

### Electives:

AP Modern European History	Grades 11-12	1.0 Credit
Economics (Macro and Micro)	Grades 11-12	1.0 Credit
AP Economics	Grades 11-12	1.0 Credit
AP Human Geography	Grades 10-12	1.0 Credit
AP Psychology	Grades 10-12	1.0 Credit
Anthropology: A Study of People and Their Cultures	Grades 10-12	1.0 Credit
Human Rights/Contemporary Issues	Grades 10-12	1.0 Credit
Introduction to Psychology	Grades 10-12	1.0 Credit
Introduction to Philosophy	Grades 10-12	1.0 Credit

Placement in required Social Studies courses in grades 9, 10, and 11 is based upon the results of standardized tests, teacher recommendation, and performance. Placement in grade 12 is based upon teacher recommendation and performance in grade 11.

## REQUIRED COURSES

### UNDERSTANDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Grade 9

2121: Honors	1.0 Credit
2142: College Prep	1.0 Credit
2163: Career/College Prep	1.0 Credit

The ninth grade Social Studies course seeks to blend history and geography. The course begins by setting the stage in a geographical context that enables students to see the world in spatial terms. Students are encouraged to investigate and analyze people and events. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on learning basic ideas and concepts in reference to man's interaction with the physical and cultural environment. Students study events and movements from classical civilization to the rise of modern Europe. The primary emphasis is to survey the origins and nature of Western European society. Students study major changes in attitudes and beliefs that are reflected in the political, social, and economic systems of Western Europe. The course strives to develop an understanding of who we are and where we come from, in order to better understand ourselves and others.

The research component of this course asks students to research the influence and impact of a renaissance personality. Honors classes require additional reading beyond the texts, greater depth of understanding, mastering of research skills and written language, as well as active participation in the daily class procedures.

College Prep and Career College Prep classes require daily reading of text material, reasonable depth of understanding and use of the written language, and active participation in class discussions.

### AMERICAN STUDIES - HISTORY

Grade 10

2221: Honors	1.0 Credit
2242: College Prep	1.0 Credit
2263: Career/College Prep	1.0 Credit
2201: Advanced Placement	2.0 Credits

The United States History American Studies program provides the structure for all tenth grade students to learn and experience the unique values of America's societal, technological, and cultural evolution. The program emphasizes reading and writing, as well as varied learning opportunities including simulations, projects, and group work. The development of the course is chronological and thematic.

The history component of the course covers events in the period ranging from post-Civil War industrialism to the present. The units of study include the political structure of the United States, the era of Reconstruction, industrialism and progressivism, imperialism and World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War and the 1950's, and the 1960's.

Each student is required to complete a research paper based on some aspect of the course.

Honors classes use basic readings from the U.S. history textbook along with extensive supplemental readings of primary and secondary sources pertaining to the specific historical units. Students are expected to write frequently in a variety of styles. Many of these assignments require independent thought and research.

College Prep and Career/College Prep classes emphasize basic U.S. history. Attempts are made to supplement the textbook reading with appropriate primary and secondary sources. Students are expected to write frequently in a variety of styles.

The Advanced Placement course in United States history is a two-semester course designed to be the equivalent of a college survey course. It is designed to provide students grounding in the subject matter of United States history and in major interpretive questions. This is a survey course in which a textbook, with supplementary readings in the form of documents, essays, or books on special themes, provides substantive and thematic coverage. This challenging course requires strong writing and reading skills, as well as dedication. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of primary sources, and historiography. This course prepares students to take both the required Advanced Placement exam in May and the SAT II test in United States History.

Prerequisite for AP: Students must have earned a B or better in ninth grade Western Civilization Honors or departmental approval.

## TWENTIETH CENTURY GLOBAL STUDIES

Grade 11

2321: Honors	1.0 Credit
2342: College Prep	1.0 Credit
2363: Career/College Prep	1.0 Credit

Twentieth Century Global Studies, building upon the 10th grade American Studies curriculum, moves students from an American outlook of the 20th Century to a multicultural, pluralistic, global perspective. Students begin at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, examining Europe and the global impact of Imperialism. The course concludes with a contemporary emerging nation perspective. Topics in this sequence include colonialism, nationalism, and global interdependence. This course demands a high level of critical thinking, research, and writing. It gives the student a unique view of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In Honors classes, students are required to do extensive outside readings, including novels and other literature. Several three- to seven-page research papers, position papers and reports are required. This is a research-based course that requires considerable independent work and initiative. The facility to formulate, communicate, and defend personal opinions is stressed.

In College Preparatory classes, students read from various selections of literature and teacher prepared handouts. Several research papers and other "take-home" assignments requiring independent research are required. A research based persuasive paper is also required.

In Career/College Prep classes, heavy emphasis is placed on in-class assignments and on a variety of readings. The course works to develop skills in reading, interpreting written material and writing. Understanding history from a contemporary perspective is emphasized. Outside readings and some research projects are required.

## **12th GRADE REQUIRED PROGRAM OPTIONS**

### COLLEGE SOCIAL SCIENCE SEMINAR

2401

1.0 Credit

College Social Science Seminar compares contemporary political and economic systems as they impact the world's social environment. Students will understand the role of the individual in a rapidly changing and closely related global environment. The course will take a four-pronged approach to thematic material. Students enrolled in the course will (1) review the foundations of political thought, (2) examine the success and failures of the American democratic experiment, (3) compare and contrast contemporary political-economic systems, and (4) analyze and evaluate competing models of the post-Cold War international system.

The course demands extensive reading, including abstracts from foundational political-economy texts, scholarship from within the international relations field, and current essays on the evolving concerns of political-economic issue and theory. Students will be asked to engage texts critically and to develop their thoughts through the writing process--including an eight-page minimum research paper.

### U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Grade 12

2421: Honors

1.0 Credit

2442: College Prep/CCP

1.0 Credit

This course examines the American political and economic systems as they impact the world's social environment. Students will understand the role of the individual in a rapidly changing and closely related global environment. The course will take a three-pronged approach to thematic material. The course will (Section 1) review the foundations of political thought; (Section 2) examine the successes and failures of the American democratic experiment; (Section 3) compare and contrast contemporary political systems.

The construction of the course will enable students to operate within a wide range of cognitive abilities. Knowledge will be constructed; systems will be analyzed, compared, contrasted, and evaluated; and alternative solutions will be created. Students will be asked to think critically and to develop their thoughts through the writing process.

As seniors, students enrolled in the course are about to take a giant leap in their lives. As near graduates, they are ready to take their position as citizens—with all of the rights and responsibilities inherent in the term—in our local community, and nation at large. Thus, the spirit of a civic education will permeate much of the course content.

## ELECTIVES

These are chosen in addition to, and not as replacements for, required Social Studies courses.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

2403

1.0 Credit

Grades 11-12

The purpose of AP Modern European History is to stimulate students' understanding of European history with the recommendation of each student to take the AP Modern European Examination (required beginning 2012-2013). The objectives of the course are for students to develop skills for interpreting chronology, major events and trends from 1450 to the present, to comprehend some of the principal themes in modern European history, to have the ability to analyze historical documents/evidence, and analyze and express historical understanding in writing.

The areas of concentration include historical, political and economic history along with an intense study of cultural and intellectual institutions. These themes will be studied from a variety of perspectives.

This course is taught at the college level. The major difference between a high school and college level history course is the amount of reading and depth of focus. Moreover, the AP curriculum stresses a large degree of higher order thinking skills within a rigorous academic context. Thus, the student will be required frequently to analyze, synthesize and evaluate primary and secondary historical sources in addition to memorizing, comprehending, and applying facts.

### AP MACROECONOMICS

2471

1.0 Credit

Grades 11-12

Offered in 2011-2012

The primary objective of this course is the study of the determinants of the aggregate level of economic activity in a global economy. Attention focuses on the demand for output by households (consumption), businesses (investment), government and trade with the rest of the world (net exports), as well as the roles played by fiscal and monetary policies. Topics covered include: Keynesian and classical models of aggregate supply and demand, the banking system and money creation, inflation, unemployment, public debt burdens, and determinants of economic growth. Students must take the AP exam in May beginning 2012-2013.

### AP MICROECONOMICS

2472

1.0 Credit

Grades 11-12

Offered in 2012-2013

The primary objective of this course is the study of the behavior of individual components of the economy and the economic relationship among them. For example, a typical problem in this course would be to determine the optimal price a company should charge for a new product. In determining the solution to the problem, it is necessary to consider microeconomic data such as the company's production costs, the degree to which the price changes affect the quantity demanded of the new product, and the prices which competing firms charge for similar products. Students must take the AP exam in May beginning 2012-2013.

### INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

2470

1.0 Credit

Grades 11-12

In this course students will learn fundamentals that will help them prepare for a college level course, as well as what is happening in our nation's and our world's economies today. We examine the basic principles of macroeconomics and microeconomics. How do consumers dictate what is produced and how much it costs? How do we know if the economy is good or bad? How does the government try to control the economy? How do companies operate? What is the stock market and how does it work? All these questions and more are answered in Introduction to Economics.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

2480

1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

In this course, students study the patterns and processes that have shaped the way that humans understand, use, shape, and interact with the earth's surface. Students use spatial concepts and landscape analysis to study human social organization and its environmental consequences. This course is divided into six units of study.

1. Population geography
2. Cultural geography
3. Political geography
4. Economic geography
5. Agricultural/rural geography
6. Urban geography

Students must take the AP exam in May beginning 2012-2013.

ANTHROPOLOGY: A STUDY OF  
PEOPLE AND THEIR CULTURES

2510

1.0 Credit

Grades 11-12

Have you ever wondered where humans originated and what our ancestors looked like? How do other cultures deal with the necessities of life? These questions and many more will be answered in this introductory anthropology course. Students will learn about the main fields within anthropology and the development of human culture. Once a general foundation and understanding of the study of anthropology is established, students will use their skills and knowledge in the study of a variety of cultures, both past and present, from around the world. This experience will be enhanced by a variety of hands on activities and films that will allow students to directly experience this social science. These include an in-class archaeological dig, hominid skull comparisons, examinations of various cultural practices, and a field trip to the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

HUMAN RIGHTS/CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

2520

1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

This course is devoted to studying the historical origins and development of political and social problems that confront contemporary humanity. Specific topics to explore will be developed in conjunction with the students according to their interests and needs.

The course encourages the development of a variety of skills. Practice in negotiation, compromise, working in teams, and problem solving is combined with listening, public speaking, thinking and reading critically, and writing. In addition, efficient time management and the ability to work independently are expected from all students. Research plays an important role in this course; traditional and electronic sources, as well as interviewing and solicitation of materials from international, national, and non-governmental sources are all used to gather information.

Because of the nature of the course, a written syllabus to be used year after year is neither practical nor logical. The basic understanding of world events is the foundation for this course. Current topics will be researched and analyzed daily.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

2530

1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

Is the Matrix just a science fiction film or is it a demonstration of postmodern philosophy? What does the comic strip Calvin & Hobbes have to do with English skepticism? Is the Simpsons just a cleverly satiric cartoon or serious cultural criticism? Are there objective truths in the universe or is all morality relative. Is the SUV America's new national symbol? Do words really mean what we think they mean? Is reality real or just an illusion?

If you are the type of student who asks him/herself questions such as these, you are not alone. If you enjoy critical thinking, if you value the search for answers to life's mysteries, if you wish to challenge your preexisting beliefs about humanity and society, or if you enjoy spirited conversation and debate, perhaps philosophy is the course for you!

In this course you will be schooled on the foundations of Western Philosophy from the Greek Classical period through contemporary American and European postmodern theory. Concepts, strategies, and frameworks will then be applied to literature, art, music, film, television, and popular culture. The only limitations are placed by your own willingness to investigate, question, and critique.

### INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

2540

1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

This course will explore fundamental psychological concepts and theories in a survey of major topics. Units will initially focus on major psychological research and conclusions about given aspects of human behavior. Students will articulate important critiques and arguments in a variety of fields of psychology. Class activities and assignments will demand that students reach beyond conventional thinking by using psychological information and principles to make their own observations about human behavior. Topics of study may include: childhood and adolescence, sensations and perception, learning and intelligence, personality, and mental illness.

The program should prepare students for the introduction to psychology course required by many colleges and provide students with the opportunity to explore vocational and professional career possibilities in the behavioral sciences.

Students who elect this course must read selected materials, carry out research projects, write papers, and pursue field study investigations.

### AP PSYCHOLOGY

2541

1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

AP Psychology will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavioral and mental processes. Students will examine psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with the many subfields of psychology such as child development, abnormal psychology, consciousness, neuroscience, etc. Students will be introduced to the ethics and methods of psychological science and practice within each of the subfields. The Advanced Placement course of study will include text study, hands on laboratories, periodical readings, and demonstrations in research and writing. Students must take the AP exam in May beginning 2012-2013.